PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
MUSEUM
& HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORTS

1989-90

Executive Director

THE SITES

Basin Head Fisheries Museum
Elmira Railway Museum
Eptek National Exhibition Centre
Green Park Shipbuilding Museum
Orwell Corner Historic Village

THE DEPARTMENTS

Architectural Consultant
Collections
Exhibits and Public Programmes
Genealogy
Curator of History
Publications and Publicity

Government House Committee

91-06486/

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reading the individual departmental reports, you will find that the year under discussion report has been a very busy one for the management and staff at all sites in our system. Collectively, we have mounted 137 separate events attracting 58,800 visitors, which represents an increase of 6% over last year's visitation.

Statistics that show an increase, however modest, are an encouragement to those who work so hard to improve their own segment of our historic sites and museum system, but they can only hint at the individual dedication and long hours put in by staff who are in many cases seasonal employees and volunteers.

Neither do statistics alone reveal that the system as a whole is under-funded, and that parts of it are due for major overhauls or that the restoration of artifacts has to be put off year after year. This year, finances are so tight that mounting our first major exhibition in four years and publishing a short history put such an intolerable strain on our resources that it will take considerable restraint over the next three years to recover lost ground.

Obviously, Government has a responsibility to provide core funding for an institution that is expected by government mandate to play the major role in the preservation and interpretation of the province's history. But, as Government's own sources of funding remain static, and its responsibilities continue to grow, it is both unreasonable and unrealistic to expect that all our needs can or should be met by a massive transfusion of funds from the public purse.

While the provincial Department of Transportation & Public Works looks after many of our buildings, the cost of maintaining the fabric of our facilities in Charlottetown increases every year, and the lack of adequate funds for their maintenance is a factor that multiplies the cost annually as these buildings continue to deteriorate. Public programming, too, is more and more expensive as supplies for both exhibitions and the cost of printing mount on an almost daily basis.

And so, while increased government funding is essential to our future, we must now also look to the private sector for support of our existing programmes, and it will have to be funds from the private sector that are the major contributor to any increase in our service to the public.

We believe that the people of Prince Edward Island value such places as Basin Head, Orwell Corner, Green Park and Elmira — and their contribution to our knowledge and to the tourism industry — and recognize that Summerside and east Prince County would be that much poorer if the Eptek Centre did not provide varied year-round programming for adults and students in that region of the province.

The province as a whole would also be poorer if there were no provincial collection of artifacts protected by this institution for the enjoyment of present and future generations of Islanders, and we and the visitors to our shores who are interested in family history would have a very hard time of it indeed if the genealogical department offered any less than its customary service to the researcher.

It is my greatest hope that through fund-raising and sponsorship of events that we can do more than merely maintain the level of service provided in 1989-90, and that the near future will see an increase in all of our public programmes. This will only be accomplished with your generous support and through a renewed commitment from the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

David Webber

BASIN HEAD FISHERIES MUSEUM
ELMIRA RAILWAY MUSEUM

Once again, we find ourselves finishing the fiscal year (1989-90) operating in the red. Once again, this can be attributed to the large inventory held over for the gift shop.

This year, our grant from the provincial Government, through the Museum & Heritage Foundation, was $59,940, which was used to run both Basin Head and Elmira. We received additional funding from the Department of Fisheries in the amount of $2000 for fish-cutting and salting demonstrations. Revenues generated from gift-shop sales, admission fees and special events make up the rest of our operating budget. This year was the box factory's final year of federal funding through the Local Employment Assistance Development (L.E.A.D.) programme. With sales of $40,000, the box factory continues to show steady growth. Starting in the new fiscal year, the staff of the box factory will become museum staff.

Our annual Harvest of the Sea Seafood Festival, held in early August, was not as successful as anticipated. We found that for the time and effort put into the festival by the staff and volunteers, the reward is minimal. This year's festival grossed $3500, but after expenses netted only $800. With this in mind, we have decided not to hold the seafood festival in 1990. In sharp contrast, the second annual Elmira Blueberry Festival was a good success. Held in late August, it raised over $500.

During the past summer, the Department of Transportation & Public Works provided for the painting and staining of all the buildings on the Basin Head site, and in the fall completed $25,000 worth of much-needed work to the Elmira station, with a new roof and platform.

Site Attendance

The attendance at Basin Head remained constant, at 8378 visitors, although less than half of these being paid visitors due to the confusing conditions that arose on the beach below the site after a magazine article appeared promoting that area. Attendance at Elmira (2204) continues to grow at the rate of about 10% a year, which is a good sign.

Staff

This past summer, we hired guides Anne Lutz, Anne Garrett, Cindy Bruce and Joan Rose using Museum & Heritage Foundation funds. Through the Department of Industry's Jobs for Youth Program, we received Shellie Stewart, Tanya MacNeil, Andrea Stewart, Mary Mullally and Susan Sweeny. Our staff also included Jason Robertson, Chris MacDonald and Chris Mossey, hired under the federal S.E.E.D. programme.

Respectfully submitted,

Regan Paquet,
Director of Basin Head and Elmira

EPTEK NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE

Director's Message

The mechanics of the Eptek National Exhibition Centre's functioning during the past year have been an interconnection of hindrances and accomplishments, dilemmas and delights, credits and debits. On the whole, we believe there have been more of the latter, particularly with the resurgence of plans for the Events Centre within Eptek, the increase in genealogy and education services, and the installation of computer, lighting and intrusion systems. The following summaries should provide a clear understanding of our achievements over the past year.

Public Programming

Eptek Centre's varied public programming continued, with 104 events presented to enhance the community's enjoyment and understanding of the exhibitions hosted in the areas of science, natural science, history and art. These events are too numerous to list individually, but suffice it to say they included art and art-appreciation workshops; music festivals, concerts, and recitals; literary festivals; children's theatre; museum seminars; lecture and films series; genealogical and multicultural information sessions; Heritage Week celebrations; multiple meetings, exhibition receptions, and the like. To add even more to the variety of our service, the Centre took on the guise of a polling and a bird seed outlet! Total attendance for the year was 22,950.

Summary

Exhibition	Source	Attendance
Ships, Colonies & Commerce	Confederation Centre	1,846
Summerside Art Club Show	Eptek Centre	639
Creative Youth Fair (Words & Art)	Eptek/Unit II Schools	1,789
A Visual Diary: Maurice Bernard	Eptek Centre	3,686
Landscapes of My Travels (G.R. Barton)	Eptek Centre	7,154
Birds of a Feather: Howatt & Huestis	Eptek Centre	3,283
The New Review '89: Art Show	The Friends of Eptek	1,037
Sable Island: A Story of Survival	Nova Scotia Museum	1,516
Many Modes: Francis Coutellier	U.N.B. Art Centre	1,031
Tropical Garden, Newfoundland Stream: Diana Dabinett	Memorial University (Nfld.) Art Gallery	969
The Island in Silk: Margaret England, Rod McGrattan	Eptek Centre	969
TOTAL Exhibitions		11
TOTAL Attendance		22,950

Education Services

School programmes at the national exhibition centre continued to focus on providing a resource supplement to Island schools, particularly those of Unit II. Teachers recognized the importance of the structured tour as a learning opportunity. During the past year, 98 tours were conducted for schools, involving 3371 students (kindergarten to senior high school), which required 103 gallery hours and 12 resource people. Tours in English and French were provided for the following exhibitions: Ships, Colonies & Commerce; A Visual Diary; Birds of a Feather; Sable Island; and, Many Modes: Francis Coutellier. As well, we hosted the annual Creative Youth Fair, National Book Festival Week, Prince County Music Festival, Royal Conservatory of Music exams and various student recitals.

The programme also provided supplementary materials to schools, which included teachers' kits prepared in advance of exhibitions, reading and film resource materials, quizzes, puzzles, etc.

Genealogy Services

Genealogy services got a real "shot in the arm" this year with the addition of a second microfilm reader and all 60 reels of The Master Name Index. Several resource texts were added to the library as well. Over the summer, with the aid of two student genealogists, Eptek Centre's genealogy service was well used and considered a success. Our thanks to the P.E.I. Genealogical Society and the Summerside Kinsmen Club for financial support.

The Friends of Eptek Centre

Every Thursday at noon, from October to March, The Friends hosted our "Films for Lunch" programme. This year the popular event featured two series, *Germany: Its Political and Social History* and *Reckoning: The Political Economy of Canada*.

The Friends continue to provide support to the Centre through their various committees and activities. The annual art show, called The New Review, the Christmas Party and auction, Heritage Day Tea, Films for Lunch, and assistance with school tours were this group's major events of the past year.

The Friends' gifts to the centre for 1989-90 included a six-foot motorized projection screen, a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet series II printer and memoryboard, computer desk, cabinet, lamp and steno chair, and a VCR system stand. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Director's Involvement

During the past 12-month period, the director served on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Multiculturalism. She was enrolled in a French-language programme and museum seminars. As well, the director participated in outside activities, such as judge for the Creative Youth Fair, Multicultural Fair at Miscouche School, National Book Festival Week's Visiting Author programme, and History-to-Go activities at Summerside Manor. There was also the unusual but pleasant task of baking gingerbread horses for the Hillcrest Beaver Colony tour to the Sable Island exhibit.

Conclusion

All in all, a very successful year. We acknowledge past and continued support for the centre's programmes by naming the following, to whom we are indebted:

Dept. of Community & Cultural Affairs	- Operation budget
Museums Assistance Program	- Programme budget
Museums Assistance Program	- Equipment upgrading
Dept. of Industry	- Summer tour guides
The Friends of Eptek Centre	- Programme assistance
The Kinsmen Club of Summerside	- Microfilm library
Communications Canada	- Computer grant
Summerside Chamber of Commerce	- Job Re-entry personnel

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the support of a dedicated staff, Lynn Turtle, assistant; Marlene Cameron, receptionist; Lisa Hedden, Diana Savidant, Marlene Campbell, docents; Paul Smith, janitorial and gallery technician; The Friends of Eptek Centre. It is indeed a pleasure to work with you!

Respectfully submitted,

Nonie Fraser,
Director, Eptek National Exhibition Centre

GREEN PARK SHIPBUILDING MUSEUM

The year 1989 was one of mixed success for the Green Park site. Regular attendance for the operating period was up significantly (by approximately 15%), the Blueberry Social and Seniors' Day were unqualified successes, and several steps were taken toward the reactivation of areas that had fallen into disuse and disrepair. However, a shorter operating period and the disappointing turnout for the Festival of the Arts events at the end of September gave the site an overall decrease in attendance of 3.5% in comparison to 1988 figures. And, in spite of some gains, parts of the site remain in desperate need of attention.

Overall, however, the 1989 season could be said to bode well for the future of Green Park. Much groundwork for site improvement and promotion has been carried out, tourism for the West Prince area is on the upswing, and, with a year's experience, site direction should be focused and competent for the coming year.

Site Improvements

Upon my appointment as director of the Green Park site at the beginning of July, I identified several areas which I felt were particularly in need of attention. These were: 1) the exhibition setup of the interpretive centre; 2) the lack of bilingual interpretation in the centre; 3) the physical condition of the shipyard, and 4) the lack of activity and interpretation at the shipyard.

Interpretive Centre

As the interpretive centre is the entrance way and admissions office for the site itself, first priority was given to rectifying the problems associated with it. To improve flow to the exhibition area, the shipbuilding panels were restored to their original places, and the interior wall freed up so that watercolours of the Yeo sailing vessels could be hung.

To gauge the need for bilingual interpretive materials, an informal survey of francophone visitors was carried out over the course of the summer. This survey indicated that between one quarter and one third of the visitors to the site were francophone, many unable to communicate in English. Given the funding situation and the lack of fully bilingual guides in the area, the only cost-efficient means to make the site truly accessible for francophone visitors appears to be the translation of all textual material in the interpretive centre into French, and the preparation of new bilingual panels. As an added bonus, the panels in the building could be standardized as far as materials, style and colour are concerned. The translation of the panels has already begun, and the new panels should be in place by the end of the 1990 season.

Over the course of last summer, a third problem area for the interpretive centre was identified, namely the audio/visual room. Early in the season, the movie projector gave out, eliminating one of the most effective and appreciated interpretive tools for the site. We had to replace the films, including *A Passage West*, a BBC feature-length documentary dealing specifically with the Green Park site and the Yeo family, with a slide/tape show about the site and regular lecture/slide show presentations on rum running by Dr. Geoff Robinson, a local author. The loss of the films represented a serious setback in the interpretation of the site, however, and it seemed increasingly necessary to update the equipment in the A/V room to remedy the situation. At the end of the season, a large television monitor and video-cassette player were purchased for the 1990 season.

Yeo House

Few changes or improvements were deemed necessary for the Yeo house in 1989. Several new dresses were purchased for the guides, including one 1865 lady's dress, and minor areas for improvement were identified for the 1990 season, including the replacement of the flagpole, the re-introduction of a kitchen garden, and the use of clear plexiglas barriers to replace the old rope barriers to the rooms. In addition, French background material was printed for distribution to visitors, and the senior guides were sent on a weekend course for costumed guides held at the New Ross Farm in Nova Scotia.

The Shipyard

The first task undertaken in re-activating the shipyard was to clean up the site itself, which had become overgrown. The work of uncovering the sawpits, woodpiles and anchors and rebuilding and repairing the steambox was undertaken with the joint efforts of Park Supervisor David Palmer and his staff as well as members of the Green Park interpretive staff. While the equipment necessary to fully repair the steambox was unavailable, the site was considerably improved and admirably kept up by the joint efforts of the park and museum staff.

The second task undertaken was to initiate some interpretive activity at the shipyard itself. The first step was to reopen the blacksmith shop. After a check of the equipment and a some tutelage at the Orwell Corner blacksmith shop, blacksmithing activity began on the site in late July and continued on a regular basis throughout the season, with guided tours introduced late in the summer. In addition, interpretive panels for the shipyard are being prepared by the P.E.I. Museum's curator of exhibits, Boyde Beck, and workmen's clothing is to be made for the site for the 1990 season.

There remain several major problem areas at the shipyard. Most of the wood on the site is now rotting away, and the half-framed ship continues to deteriorate. While the sawpits could not be used during 1989 because of wasps, an ongoing problem, it is hoped that they will be in use in 1990. It is also hoped that the most obviously rotted wood will be removed in the coming year and some of it replaced with wood cut on the site. The regular use of the sawpits will provide further shipyard activity as well. The carpenter's shop remains idle at present, but possible shop activities include having a local woodcarver work on the a ship's figurehead on a regular basis, or on rudimentary work such as the carving of pegs, now being carried out by interpretive staff. It is hoped that the shipyard will become a more functional and fully interpreted area in the coming year.

Canada Day

Organized previous to the appointment of a site director, the Canada Day celebrations saw a local gathering of approximately 400 competing in games, races and a scavenger hunt for donated prizes, and enjoying birthday cake, refreshments and a free tour of the site. It was a successful and enjoyable day for all involved.

Blueberry Social

The most successful Blueberry Social ever saw approximately 1500 visitors enjoying a perfect day at the site, partaking of fresh-baked goods, ice cream, local talent, and wagon rides around the grounds. It would be difficult to imagine a smoother or more successful event. The site's share of the earnings came to approximately $600.

Seniors' Day

This event was brought back in 1989 with the hope that it would strengthen the site's ties to the community and the region in which it operates. More than 200 seniors from a number of West Prince clubs visited the site free of charge, and enjoyed an afternoon of old-time music, stepdancing, and tea on the Yeo House grounds. Very positive comments were received from the visitors. This event is once again a firm part of the site's annual programme.

Festival of the Arts

The only disappointment in an otherwise successful season was 1989's Festival of the Arts events held at Green Park, a last-minute addition to the programme. The site was reopened in the last week of September for four days of arts-and-crafts demonstrations, among the largest in the Festival. While the organization of the event was admirably carried out by Green Park's senior guides, turnout was a disappointing 233. This was due largely to a duplication of the previous year's programme, already familiar to local residents who traditionally comprise the majority of visitors to these events. I would suggest that if the Museum is to take part again in the Festival that it condense activities and emphasize entertainment over crafts. While the event cannot be called a success, it nevertheless provided the residents of West Prince with access to what is intended to be an Island-side celebration of the Arts. It should not, therefore, be abandoned in future years, but rather altered to meet the needs and interests of area residents primarily, since it does not serve as a draw for tourists.

Promotions

Thanks to a matching-funds grant for promotion from the provincial Government, Green Park was able to conduct a considerable amount of advertising in the local media and prepare a bilingual promotional pamphlet for the 1990 season. During a visit to the site in mid-August, the Minister for Community and Cultural Affairs, Leonce Bernard, expressed an interest in seeing the site produce some type of promotional item to be sold in the museum's gift shop.

Attendance

Month	Visitors	Schools	Tours	Events	Total
June	419	293	128	0	840
July	2525	0	149	386	3060
August	2211	19	97	1735	4052
September	197	0	46	233	476
TOTAL	5352	312	420	2344	8428

Percentage increase in attendance over 1988, to end of August = 14.7%. Percentage decrease in attendance over 1988, to end of season = 3.5%.

Income

Month	Attendance	Gift Shop	Events	Total
June	$ 358.50	$ 11.69	-	$ 370.19
July	3639.10	529.82	-	4168.92
August	3269.50	441.94	573.26	4284.70
September	345.75	16.00	-	361.75
TOTAL	$7612.85	$998.45	$573.26	$9185.56

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Leon,
Director of Green Park

ORWELL CORNER HISTORIC VILLAGE

Attendance

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Adult	2282	3162	4793	4469	4981
Youth	368	658	753	889	923
Member	72	88	14	20	15
Tour	366	334	348	618	410
School	1771	1516	1668	1686	1748
Events	2518	3136	3622	3573	3844
Other	341	306	348	-	86
TOTAL	7718	9200	11,621	11,355	12,005

Attendance this year was very good, showing a slight increase over the previous year. This is the first year with over 12,000 visitors, yet there is still much to be done in the area of promotion of all of the branch museums. Tourism surveys tell us that cultural contacts are a high priority for visitors, so it is timely that the 1990 *Visitors Guide* published by the Department of Tourism has a full-page promotion of P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation sites, using photos of Orwell Corner staff and Green Park.

Programme

Programme activities in 1989 included many of our traditional events as well as some new ones.

In late May, we hosted a second workshop on educational programmes for museums, held in conjunction with the Community Museums Association (CMA). It was well received and introduced many new and exciting approaches to an important museum activity.

I am currently serving on an education committee with representatives of the CMA, Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, and the schools to help plan a provincial historic resources convention for Island schools in the spring of 1990. The educational role of museums continues to be our primary one at Orwell Corner.

The Special Events Programme in 1989 included the usual variety of activities planned to attract visitors to the site: Canada Day Celebrations, Draft Horse Show, Strawberry Fair, Senior Citizens' Day, Collector Day, Scottish Festival and Highland Games, and Harvest Home Festival. The

Wednesday evening *ceilidhs* were filled to capacity during July and August, with smaller crowds attending in the fall. This year we showcased a number of Island performers of traditional Irish, Scottish and Maritime music, including Dorothy Curley, Helen Byrne, Highland Heart, Edward Fitzgerald, Clary Croft, Blaine Hrabi and Denise Reisor, the Murray Harbour Gaelic Choir, the Scottish Settlers' Society, Michael O'Connor, Cef Pobjoy and John DeMarsh, and Teresa Doyle.

During the summer, we participated in Charlottetown's Gold Cup Parade with a float representing "Home Sweet Home." Tom LeClair represented the Corner at a Draft Horse Field Day at Laurie Blue's farm. Orwell Corner was used as the setting for yet another Japanese television production, on Anne of Green Gables. We also hired out the horses and wagons for a Kevin Sullivan Production and a Tourism Canada commercial. Revenue from these activities supported the hiring of some of our summer staff.

In July, the Prince Edward Island Women's Institute held its summer picnic at Orwell Corner, and last fall we hosted the Canadian Association of Members of Public Utility Commissions for a special *ceilidh* in the community hall. The hall was also the setting for the first wedding on the site: Teresa Doyle and Bret Bunston were married by the Rev. David Weale.

Again this year, I must forward a special thank you to all those who helped make our events such a success. Many volunteered their time and energy, and without their assistance we could not have undertaken all of these projects. We also recognize the contribution of our local business establishments, MLA's and churches.

Collections/Donations

Many items large and small were added to the collection last summer. Additions to the farm included a horse-drawn manure spreader, grain crusher, potato-set cutter, a harness maker's sewing machine, a two-seat buggy, and a potato scuffler. A number of small items were added to the store/house collection, including bottles, toys and a cake box complete with padlock. Harold Jay also presented a number of new items for the blacksmith shop.

Buildings

The Department of Public Works undertook to re-shingle half the roof of the community hall and the store, and replaced a main sill under the carriage house. Some repairs were made to the barns and a lot of the farm fencing was replaced. A formidable list of work to be completed in the coming year has been drawn up, and as much of it is long overdue, we hope to witness many improvements next year.

Staffing

Our staff last summer earned a great big thank you from all of us. Hired through the Museum & Heritage Foundation were Grace MacLeod, Ruth Taylor, Robbie MacDonald, Tom LeClair and Jamie Matheson. Through Department of Industry funding we received Scott Taylor, Jason Morrissey, Judy Murphy and Leah O'Shea. Through the federal SEED programme, we employed Pam Crane, Lisa Donnelly and Gail MacDonald. Maureen Donnelly was employed by the Board of Orwell Corner.

Development and Planning

The Friends of Macphail organization grew out of a planning committee of the Board of Orwell Corner in October of 1989, and we look forward to the development of the Macphail property. Lack of development dollars has largely restricted any further development of the property or programme at Orwell Corner, and it would appear that for the immediate future funds will have to be directed to upgrading and maintaining what we have already on site. Nonetheless, we should continue to strive for further support in the area of staffing and programme development.

Once again, my thanks to the Board of Directors of Orwell Corner for their enthusiastic support, especially to Martina Doyle who has mastered the difficult task of chairing a well-run meeting. My best wishes to retiring Board members and a warm welcome to those "coming on board."

Respectfully submitted,

Wendell Boyle,
Director of Orwell Corner

ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT

First Annual Report

The job description of this position as it now exists consists of primary duties connected with enquiries from the general public concerning buildings with a heritage interest. Secondary duties include working with the Library Committee and the Awards Committee of the Museum & Heritage Foundation, and keeping an up-do-date list of architectural or heritage consultants to help with enquiries.

There were numerous responses made to enquiries from home owners, church administrations, school teachers, community schools, associations with headquarters in old buildings, municipalities and even the Department of Public Works in Fredericton, N.B. These enquiries generally concerned the following aspects of buildings:

a) identification of styles of buildings
b) information about appropriate paint schemes for exteriors
c) advice on planning renovations that were sympathetic
d) advice on aspects of restoration
e) advice on adapting interior spaces to new uses
f) advice on appropriate interior decoration schemes sympathetic to a particular style of house or other building
g) advice on setting up an architectural history unit in a school curriculum
h) lectures on Island architecture to school children, community schools and Holland College students
i) advice for contractors on approaches to sympathetic renovation

In all, 47 enquiries were dealt with through meetings at building sites and other places and through correspondence, although specific records on contracts, duration of time spent and information prepared, etc. were not kept until last summer. Many phone calls were received, generally re-directed

from Beaconsfield, concerning the Architectural Plaque programme, requests for funding and general information on material culture.

There is clear evidence that knowledge of this service provided by the Museum is spreading, although more publicity would solve its current under-utilization. This consultant and the Museum should devise a plan to inform contractors and others across the Island of the service, perhaps through regular publications such as the Newsletter and *The Island Magazine*, which would encourage more people to ask for advice.

A letter was sent to the P.E.I. Architects Association asking for the names of architects interested in being placed on a list, which would be given to clients requiring more help than the Museum was able to give. Three architects responded, and their names are made available whenever the nature of an enquiry indicates that it would be best handled by an architect.

As well as these activities, the architectural consultant took part in the Heritage Canada annual meeting in Vancouver last fall, after which a report was prepared and submitted to the Board.

New Initiatives

An excellent opportunity for documenting significant structures on the Island developed when Ken McInnis, an instructor in Architectural Technology at Holland College, volunteered to assist the Museum in any aspect of its architectural work that seemed suitable. The result was the establishment of a programme whereby, in return for instruction in architectural history for Holland College students by this consultant, the architectural students at the college would begin documenting (by means of measured plans and elevations) those structures of historic significance in the province. The first result of this excellent collaboration was the documentation of the central-chimney house at 222 Sydney Street in Charlottetown.

In the months — and years — to come, it may be possible to document many other unique structures on the Island through the medium of measured drawings. This will not only be a valuable and, thus far, unique addition to the Museum's activities but the drawings themselves, produced to professional standards, may be used in exhibitions and perhaps even in publications.

Schedule of Activities

When Irene Rogers held the position of architectural consultant/historian as a one-fifth position, she came in to Beaconsfield on Fridays on a regular basis. That has certain advantages because she could generally be found at that time. The disadvantages of this arrangement were that individuals often had to wait some time in order to obtain information and frequently could not see Mrs. Rogers at all because they were only free on evenings and weekends. It is important to point out at this time that the majority of contacts made with members of the public took place in the evenings and on weekends, as private individuals tend to work during the day. Future plans for this position should take this fact into consideration. While a more structured position is desirable from an organizational point of view, the flexibility possible by always being "on call" is in the long run more useful, if at times rather inconvenient for the consultant!

On the whole, this has been a most agreeable experience, and it is with pleasure that we report that the programme has been increasingly successful in its aims. To increase its effectiveness, we suggest the following:

a) create a greater awareness of the service through more publicity;
b) try to find at least $300 to bring library holdings up to date;
c) try to find money to construct minimal shelving for hundreds of periodicals with good reference value;
d) find ways of becoming more closely allied with Heritage Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Reginald Porter,
Architectural Consultant

COLLECTIONS

Annual report time provides the year's rare opportunity to shift gears and look at what has been accomplished rather than at what needs doing. Most activities within the Collections Department may be categorized under the broad headings of Research and Special Projects, Outreach and Extension, and Collections Development.

Research and Special Projects

The P.E.I. component of the Atlantic Canada Newspaper Survey of 18th- and 19th-century goods and services continued under two separate projects in 1989-90, with the 1990 segment funded by a $45,490 grant from the Canadian Job Strategies Program of Employment and Immigration Canada. Project manager Donald Moses and researchers Leona Turner, Randy Muttart and Carole Betts are steadily contributing to the 15,000 records currently entered in the database. In-house use of the system, linking artifacts to advertisements and printing out indexed information for researchers, occurs on a daily basis. From April to November of 1989, a previous Canadian Job Strategies grant of $41,720 funded four employees.

From June until December, 1989, Barbara Morgan was funded by a $10,400 grant from the National Archives of Canada via the Canadian Council of Archives to organize and prepare finding aids for approximately 20,000 archival documents. The number 20,000 speaks volumes about the size of this seeking, numbering, listing and organizing project, which was carried out in a thorough, competent manner.

July of 1989 saw the last of support from the Registration Assistance Program of the Department of Communications, representing approximately $7,500 for four months in the 1898-90 fiscal year, during which Anne Burke efficiently standardized and edited computer records in the artifact database.

Errol MacEachern worked as a collection assistant, focusing on the inspection and documentation of the state of the textile collection and generally assisting with the collection in a very willing manner. Funding of just over $1,000 was provided by the SEED component of the federal Government's Challenge '89 program.

To say that financial support of over $106,000 for the 1989-90 year from the four funding sources mentioned was greatly appreciated is an understatement: the range and volume of work accomplished by 11 additional staff members in research, documentation improvement, and collections organization could not have been even approximated by the two permanent staff members.

Sheri McBride, assistant professor of Home Economics at the University of Prince Edward Island, and two students from the Home Economics Department have been assisting with research in the costume collection: in-depth studies of specific garments will result in very welcome documentation on construction techniques, date, style, social history, etc.

The recent Militia Exhibition provided many positive spin-offs, including a substantial contribution to collection documentation, which is rarely emphasized. Numerous pieces in the military collection, which had been undated and unidentified, have now been documented to provide a resource that will be drawn on for years to come. A hearty round of thanks to the prime researcher, David Webber.

Outreach and Extension

Outward loans were made to temporary exhibitions in 1989, including "Quilts and Other Fabrics" at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, "Images of Yesterday" at O'Leary Museum, and "A View from the Bridge" at the Garden of the Gulf Museum in Montague. Museums and sites which have artifacts on extended loan include the Alberton Museum, Province House, the Premier's suite, Atlantic Veterinary College, City Hall, Keir Memorial Museum, Fox Hall of Fame, Government House, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. Groups that have been helped with display materials include Farmers' Bank Museum, Musee Acadien, Holland College Centre School of Visual Arts, and New Ireland Society in Tignish. The comings and goings of whatsits and Travelling Trunks continue on a routine basis.

The following is a sampling of workshops and symposia that staff participated in: Mary Burnett and Trude Oliver contributed to Planning and Storage, a workshop on collections storage held at the Artifactory in January; Mary Burnett assisted students of historic costume at the University of Prince Edward Island with four research projects; Trude Oliver attended a workshop on Acquisition and Appraisal of Archival Documents in Moncton that was sponsored by the Archives Councils of the Maritime Provinces, a Legal Affairs Symposium presented by the Canadian Museums Association in Ottawa, and contributed to a Maritime Museum Curators' Symposium sponsored by the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa; and Anne Burke and Barb Morgan attended the annual meeting and Appraisal of Film Collections workshop held by the Association of Canadian Archivists in Fredericton.

Mary Burnett, registrar of the collection, continues to serve on the Publishing Committee, and Trude Oliver on the Museum's Collections Management Committee, on the Government House and Garden Committees, the Provincial Conservation Committee, and as designated representative to Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).

Contact with members of the public, researchers and museum colleagues continues to be made with regard to artifact and collections-related inquiries, averaging well above 500 a year. Contact is also made on a regular basis with carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and alarm and fire system specialists as the vital, time- and money-consuming issues of maintaining the storage building receive attention. The icing on this cake came on March 21, 1990, when we were informed by telephone company employees that squirrels had on two separate occasions chewed through the computer lines. They believe that the squirrels return for the stimulation of the mild electrical shocks received.

The Canadian Conservation Institute cleaned and treated military jackets, accessories and two fire screens, processed requests for future treatment of artifacts, and evaluated a request for a textile collection survey. Liaison with staff members of the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, Community Museums Association, and the Public Archives of Prince Edward Island occurs as a matter of course — technical assistance, financial support and professional judgment calls are regularly and generously shared with the Collections Department.

Collections Department

During the 1989-90 fiscal year, 347 artifacts were acquired in 73 donation and purchase transactions. Highlights of those transactions include, in the souvenir and commemorative area, silver spoons from the S.S. Minto, a Prince of Wales College china slipper, three souvenir egg cups with the inscription "Foxy Montague, P.E.I.," an Alberton High School pink china teapot, and a "Hotel Victoria" plate. In the clothing category, acquisitions included an early 20th-century beaded dress and cape, a man's black wool frock coat, a cotton bathing suit, broadcloth nightgowns, and hand-made slips of unbleached muslin. In the military area, there were a field officer's dress coat and coatee, an 1839 percussion musket, an 82nd regiment helmet plate and steel bayonet, and World War I brown wedge Royal Flying Corps cap, sheet music and ring.

In furniture, the Provincial Collection grew with the addition of a mahogany bookcase, a spinning wheel formerly used in Belfast (P.E.I.) that returned from Dedham, Mass., a sideboard made in the H. and S. Love workshop, and a sideboard made by A. Ernest Duchemin. Also received were handwoven linens and blankets, including one made at Tryon Woollen Mills, a name quilt, a crazy quilt and a hand-knitted bedspread. And in the "rarely seen" department, architectural details from a 1790s house, a wooden flail, a scutching knife, a branding iron from Coles' Distillery, bound issues of *The Broad-Axe*, a dress hoop and a heart-shaped sewing gauge with silver handle joined other treasures in the collection.

Thank You

The dedicated support of many people, from donors to those who lend artifacts for temporary exhibitions, those who keep clocks in order, and those who have done appraisals without charge, is forthcoming on a regular basis and is greatly appreciated. Staff members, former staff members and "believers in the cause" continue to contribute above and beyond the call of duty almost as a way of life. Mary Burnett is the prime example of this way of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Trude Oliver,
Curator of Collections

EXHIBITS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

This year, the Exhibits and Public Programmes Department got back into top gear with a number of projects.

On the exhibits side, the Museum produced three displays, one large and two small. The latter included The Bonshaw Hills and a permanent panel interpreting the history of the Hon. George Coles Building. *The Bonshaw Hills* was produced in conjunction with the Institute of Island Studies. It displayed the original John Burden illustrations from the recently published book of essays by the same name by Dr. Ian MacQuarrie, former chairman of the Board of the Museum & Heritage Foundation. The exhibit coincided with the book launching at the Bonshaw Community Centre, and later appeared at the University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library. Both book and exhibit were well received.

In November, Eddie Clark, Speaker of the House of Assembly, officially unveiled The Honourable George Coles Building Exhibit. Produced with the assistance of the Office of the Speaker, this interpretive panel explores the history of the George Coles Building in its Queens Square context. The panel is permanently installed in the building's main foyer.

This year's major effort was devoted to the production of A Thousand Young Men, an in-depth study of the volunteer militia movement on Prince Edward Island between 1775 and 1874. Opening on 1 March at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, this exhibit (and the 200-page book by the same name) brings to the fore a little-known facet of Island history. Containing uniforms (beautifully cleaned and restored by the Canadian Conservation institute), arms, accoutrements and other artifacts, A Thousand Young Men is the first exhibit on this scale we have attempted in several years. The lessons and techniques learned, the professional look of the final product and the enthusiastic reception it has received indicate that the project was well worth the time, money and sheer sweat poured into it. It serves to re-establish the Museum as a producer of quality exhibitions. It also serves, unfortunately, to prove how expensive the production of a quality exhibit is in 1990 by coming in over budget. Showing at the Confederation Centre until 8 April, an abbreviated version will appear in Montague's Garden of the Gulf Museum this summer. The full exhibit will be shown at Eptek National Exhibition Centre in Summerside during September and October. Partial attendance figures to date from the Confederation Centre indicate that this will be a popular exhibit.

On the Public Programmes side, the Artifact of the Month programme has enabled us to make use of Beaconsfield's limited display space. Although one calculation suggests that, at the rate of one per month, it would take close to 400 years to bring the entire collection before the public, the programme is a way to focus on parts of the collection that might not otherwise receive attention. Although the nature of the display area (in the Book room) is a limiting factor, we featured artifacts that ranged from fine art to folk art to furniture, pottery, souvenirs and plaster angels.

Other ongoing programmes included Identification Day, held during Heritage Week, and our participation in the Island Lecture Series arranged by U.P.E.I.'s Institute of Island Studies. Although the demands of installing our A Thousand Young Men exhibit kept me from personally participating in I.D. Day, it was by all accounts a success. This year also marked the eighth annual Island Lecture Series, which we have traditionally co-sponsored with the Institute. Unfortunately, we were forced to cut our financial support this year, but continued to provide technical and logistical support. The theme this year was *A Place Apart: Islands in Nature and Culture*. The extremely good attendance — well above that of previous years — bodes well for the future of the series.

As for next year, planning is already underway for our next major exhibit, called New Ireland: The Irish on Prince Edward Island. Drawing upon the financial support of the Departments of Tourism & Parks and Community & Cultural Affairs, New Ireland will feature Reg Porter as guest curator. The exhibition is due to open in mid-July at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, then travel to Summerside in the late fall. It promises to be one of the most extensive exhibits ever mounted by the Museum.

In retrospect, the past year has been valuable both for the projects completed and the experience gained. The techniques acquired, as well as the problems encountered, will serve to streamline future efforts. It has shown what we can and cannot accomplish at our present level of funding, and more importantly perhaps, indicates that we could do with just a little bit more.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyde Beck,
Curator of Exhibits and Public Programmes

GENEALOGY

April 1989 to March 1990 has been another busy but rewarding year in the Genealogy Division, leading to growth and development, and setting a positive direction for the Museum's genealogical programme in the nineties.

Appointment

The year got off to a most pleasant start with the appointment, on April 3, of Charlotte Stewart as assistant genealogist. Charlotte's professionalism and dedicated administrative support have been invaluable to the division in the past year.

Statistics

A record number of researchers, 2818, visited the Genealogy Division during the calendar year 1989, compared with 2412 the year before and 1828 in 1987. As the division's services have become better known, we have received hundreds of written queries, many more than we have staff or time to answer. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a backlog of requests. We managed, however, to answer over 500 written queries in 1989, compared with 600 in each of 1987 and 1988. Although this year's total is lower, the significant increase in visiting researchers (who are our first priority), combined with reduced student help in the summer, and increased programme activities in 1989 meant we had less time to research and answer queries by correspondence. In addition to written queries, we also answered hundreds of telephone queries throughout the year.

Programme

The Irish theme has been an integral part of the genealogical programme in the past year, and will continue to be throughout 1990, the official year of the Irish on P.E.I. proclaimed by the Department of Tourism. Last April, I participated in the

third annual Irish Heritage Lecture Series (organized by the Benevolent Irish Society) at Charlottetown and Fort Augustus, with a lecture on tracing Irish ancestry. In October, financial assistance from the P.E.I. Genealogical Society, the Public Archives of P.E.I., the Benevolent Irish Society and the Institute of Island Studies enabled us to organize an Irish genealogy workshop and lecture in Charlottetown. The guest speaker was Dr. Brian Trainor, director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and former director of the National Archives of Northern Ireland. On Heritage Day, an Irish Heritage information session was conducted at Beaconsfield, with displays, entertainment and local Irish resource experts, including Dr. Brendan O'Grady.

In co-operation with the P.E.I. Genealogical Society and with funding from the provincial Department of Tourism, we have begun planning for a two-day Irish genealogy workshop next September with guest speakers from Ireland and Atlantic Canada. Work has also begun on a genealogical component for the Museum & Heritage Foundation's Irish exhibit to open at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum this summer.

Since many genealogists now use personal computers to store and organize their genealogical data, a computer demonstration was held at Beaconsfield last May for those interested in this technological method. Nigel Powell, branch president of the Mormon Church in Charlottetown, led the demonstration using the Personal Ancestry File programme developed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, which operates the world's largest genealogical library, in Salt Lake City. In October, a genealogical seminar was arranged in Charlottetown with guest speaker Ronald Bremer, lecturer and former research specialist with the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City.

A research weekend to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in Fredericton was arranged in October. Thirteen Island genealogists participated.

In addition to these and other special events in 1989-90, we have continued to promote public awareness of genealogical methodology and the resources available to family historians on the Island through 17 public speaking engagements, mainly lectures and workshops. While several of these addresses were given in Charlottetown, others took place in Tyne Valley, Summerside, Cornwall, Fort Augustus, Montague, Wood Islands and Souris. Again this year, were pleased to have several groups, including two groups of high school students, visit the Genealogy Room for a hands-on introduction to the resources there.

We have worked closely with Nonie Fraser in setting up a genealogy section at Eptek Centre, and have visited, shared information and discussed respective interests with the community museums that also have genealogical collections, that is, the Acadian Museum in Miscouche, the Alberton Museum and Dalton Centre in Tignish.

We have continued to work with other groups, from the community, churches, community schools and those planning family reunions, as well as with librarians and organizations and departments not previously mentioned, such as the provincial Department of Vital Statistics, Land Registry Office, Estates Division of the Supreme Court, the Tourism Industry Association of P.E.I., the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes and the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Involvement with the media through television, radio and newspapers has continued to help promote the genealogical programme. In October, CBC's "Compass" interviewed Dr. Brian Trainor; in July, "Island Morning" interviewed staff and researchers, and in February, the Women's Institute radio programme aired on Q93 and CFCY interviewed staff on subjects related to Heritage Day. I have continued to write a monthly genealogy column for *The Guardian* newspaper. Comprehensive press releases for special genealogical activities, prepared by Karen Kearney, have appeared in the media throughout the year.

For the third consecutive year, the *Visitors Guide* published by the Department of Tourism has featured an article about tracing your roots on Prince Edward Island, highlighting the holdings of the Genealogy Division. Several New England and Atlantic Canada newspapers included similar articles in their travel or lifestyles sections. The positive effect of all this combined publicity is reflected in our statistics.

Charlotte Stewart and I have both prepared several written submissions for the P.E.I. Genealogical Society newsletter, including book reviews, acquisition lists and a regular column. A two-part genealogy article was also prepared for Issues 26 and 27 of *The Island Magazine*.

We have also worked closely with Karen Kearney in revamping information pamphlets on various genealogical topics. These popular guides now have a more professional image.

Student Projects

Last summer, we received funding for only three student genealogy aides compared with four students in each of the previous five years. Through the provincial Youth Development Programme, we hired Jill MacMicken and Gerard Hartley, and through the federal Challenge '89 Program, we hired Lori Quilty. Without the assistance of students, we could not operate effectively during the summer rush, so recent talk of cutbacks in student employment has us most concerned.

The Collection

During the past year, the P.E.I. Genealogical Society has continued to be most supportive in adding to the collection in the Genealogy Division. The society purchased $500 worth of reference books and several portable microfiche trays, and shared genealogical periodicals received on exchange from other societies. A microfilm copy of the P.E.I. Census of 1841 was purchased with funds from the Genealogy Division's own budget. Many kindhearted researchers have continued to donate copies of compiled genealogies and notes on various Island families for the benefit of other family historians. We acknowledge these donations as well as several financial ones with sincere thanks.

Several Island cemeteries that were not transcribed properly ten years ago were re-transcribed last summer by volunteers and staff. Volunteer Nelda Murray deserves special commendation for her dedication to this project.

Charlotte Stewart, student Joanne Darby and volunteers have continued to catalogue and card deaths from current Island newspapers. Special thanks go to volunteers Evelyn Cudmore, Peggy Burns and Mary Shaw for their support with this project.

David Webber has been most generous in sharing several lists of P.E.I. colonial militia volunteers that he found while conducting research for his recent exhibition and book. Indexing of these lists has already been started by Bill MacMicken, another dedicated volunteer.

Major indexing projects have been temporarily put on hold pending the results of a planned feasibility study on introducing computerized access to at least some of the division's records. The study may be completed in time to begin indexing of the P.E.I. Census of 1901, due to be released by Statistics Canada in 1992.

Professional Development

Although Charlotte Stewart had worked in the Genealogy Division as a student in 1986, and on a temporary basis in 1988, she was given comprehensive on-the-job training when she joined the staff full-time last year. Research visits to the Public Archives of P.E.I., the Land Registry Office, Charlottetown libraries and the Estates Division of the Supreme Court were an integral part of this training. In April, Charlotte also attended a Museum Education Workshop, and in October took part in the Acquisitions and Appraisal of Archival Collections Conference.

Both Charlotte and I attended a Subject Indexing Workshop in May, an Acadian Genealogy Workshop in November, and a workshop on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Museums in March. In April, I completed an evening introductory computer course, and attended a staff-training workshop. In June, I attended a workshop on Training Summer Museum Staff, and in October spent a research weekend at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Other Activities

In addition to serving on various committees over the past year, I continued to serve on the executive of the P.E.I. Genealogical Society as the representative for the P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation. Charlotte Stewart continued on as secretary-treasurer of the Archives Council of P.E.I.

A Volunteer Tea was held on February 21 to honour all those who had given of their time and talents to the P.E.I. Museum & Heritage Foundation over the years. Without volunteer support in adding to the Genealogy Division's holdings, it could never have grown to be the successful resource centre it has become. Charlotte Stewart and I are ever mindful of this fact, so it is with the utmost sincerity that we once again express our heartfelt thanks to all the division's dedicated volunteers.

Looking Ahead

As the study of genealogy continues to grow in popularity, and as public demand increases for our services, the question of where the Genealogy Division is headed must be addressed. Executive Director David Webber's Five Year Plan for the Museum & Heritage Foundation includes the first official written policy for this division, and sets a positive direction for Board and staff to work together constructively on planning for the future. Issues of immediate concern are understaffing, budget restrictions and, as already mentioned, a computer feasibility study.

All in all, 1989-90 has been another successful year. We trust we can count on your continued support to ensure an even more successful genealogical programme in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Fraser
Genealogical Co-ordinator

CURATOR OF HISTORY

The Curator of History is unofficially attached to the publishing arm of the Museum for budgeting purposes, but is essentially a resource for departments requiring editing "assistance" or historical "expertise." The past year has been a fruitful one for the incumbent, as the quickening pace of museum activities continued to shape the Curator of History's duties.

The Island Magazine

The Curator of History is also editor of *The Island Magazine*. Sales-wise, it has been a banner year for that publication. Since H. H. Marshall has taken on the distribution of the Magazine, increasing the number of outlets and expanding into the Halifax-area market, circulation has jumped significantly. Average six-month circulation for recent issues had risen to around 2,200. Number 26 (Spring-Summer 1989), the first issue distributed by H. H. Marshall, enjoys at this point a circulation of over 2,700, an increase in the order of 27%. Firm circulation figures for the Fall-Winter edition, #27, are not yet available because of the mechanics of the distribution arrangements. Retail outlets do not return unsold copies of any issue until after the appearance of the next one. Since our issues appear six months apart, nine months may pass between publication of any issue, and the availability of sales figures.

When considered in light of the staff time and mileage costs formerly associated with in-house distribution, the marked increase in circulation easily convinces me that we should continue with the present arrangement.

To some extent, increased sales have been undone by increased production costs. Recent issues have broken through the self-imposed 40-page length barrier, raising expenses, while inflation has continued to do its work hiking the per-unit cost of the Magazine until our profit margin disappeared. In response, the Board of Governors, at the instigation of the Publishing Committee, has voted the first price increases in seven years. The newsstand price has risen from $3.50 to $4.50, while subscription rates are now $8 (Canada), $10 (USA), and $12 (overseas). Besides incorporating higher mailing costs into out-of-Canada subscriptions, the new price scale adopts standard magazine practice by rewarding subscribers with lower-than-newsstand prices. These changes, while regrettable, should keep the Magazine on a healthy financial footing.

As part of our commitment to keeping costs down wherever practical, the Supervisor of Publicity and Publications (Karen Kearney) and I did the rough layout for #27 ourselves, since the formula for this is fairly standard. The result was a $650 saving in typesetting and design costs (from $2,600 to $1,950). It is appropriate here, I think, to commend Karen Kearney, whose experience in publishing and commitment to excellence has considerably enhanced the production values of recent issues. I must also thank my Editorial Committee for its hard work, and my colleagues for many favours, great and small, freely given but never sufficiently acknowledged.

There is one final Magazine note. Over the past year, we reissued the Bibliographic Index to *The Island Magazine*, which had fallen out of print. The revised edition is more complete (including issues 1-25) and more handsome, with a re-designed cover and laser-printed type. The index is, however, no longer free; it now sells for $1.

Publishing

Besides working on the Magazine, the Curator of History sits on the Publishing Committee and helps edit all museum publications. The rejuvenated publishing arm of the organization has kept me busy over the past year. The major new title is, of course, David Webber's *A Thousand Young Men: The Colonial Volunteer Militia of Prince Edward Island, 1775-1874*, and it claimed a great deal of attention during the late fall and early winter.

Exhibits and Programming

The Curator of History's role *vis à vis* exhibit planning continues to evolve. One minor and one major exhibit highlighted the past year's involvement. In both instances, my role was primarily twofold: editing of text and vetting for historical accuracy. The permanent exhibition at the Coles Building (mentioned in last year's report) was completed during the summer of 1989; our first major exhibition in several years, dealing with the colonial militia, was opened on 1 March at the Confederation Centre. This division of labour with colleagues (the Director, Curator of Exhibits and Public Programmes, Curator of Collections, and Supervisor of Publications and Publicity) seemed to work satisfactorily. Yet considerable flexibility is possible. For example, the Curator of History will have greater responsibility for gathering material and establishing historical context for our next major project, *New Ireland: The Irish on Prince Edward Island*.

The Artifact of the Month program continued through 1989-90, though my involvement in it was limited. The Island Lecture Series, which is co-sponsored by the Institute of Island Studies at U.P.E.I. .and the Museum & Foundation, was staged successfully again this year on eight consecutive Monday nights between February and April at the Coles Building in Charlottetown, with shorter versions slated later for Eptek Centre and Montague. The topic this year is *A Place Apart: Islands in Nature and Culture*. Once again, attendance was up, with a record crowd of 107 people attending the opening lecture by Dr. David Cairns. This is my fourth year of involvement with the Island Lecture Series, and helping to organize and stage it remains a labour-intensive exercise. My thanks to Harry Baglole of the Institute, the author of the series' good fortune, and Boyde Beck, my colleague, who will have more to say of this programme in his report.

Historical Resource and Extension Work

As during last year, direct contact with the public follows two main avenues: answering questions and speaking to groups. One could use up the whole day answering written or oral queries from the public and the local media. Unfortunately, that isn't practical. The range and nature of the requests has led to considerable head-scratching, occasional annoyance (sometimes for me, sometimes for the questioner), and some pleasurable contacts with people interested in heritage. In terms of extension work, I have been in far greater demand as a public speaker than my abilities should warrant. I'm not sure what this suggests about the Island lecture circuit. There have been perhaps eight speaking engagements, stemming from my research interests and my supposed expertise. Perhaps the highlight was a one-day session for people training to work in the hospitality industry, where I was asked to give the history of the province from pre-historic times to the present in just over four hours.

Other Duties

Committee work becomes a necessary evil in any organization: necessary because committees can be useful ways to address issues and problems, evil because attending meetings is extremely time-consuming, especially when the number of potential committee members is limited. While not as burdened as some of my colleagues in this respect, I have served on a number of committees, both in-house and out. I represent this organization on the Board of the Institute of Island Studies, sit on its executive, chair three of its on-going committees and sit on another. For the first part of the year, I sat with Mr. Webber on the Festival of the Descendants advisory committee, and while it is not specifically as a representative of the Museum & Foundation, I am a member of the board of the Community Museums Association of Prince Edward Island. Finally, in the absence of the Executive Director, I have occasionally been designated "acting director."

To some extent, the duties and activities of the Curator of History are dependent on the activities of the organization as a whole. Except for *The Island Magazine*, the Curator of History's agenda is set by the needs of others. In most ways this is not a bad thing. What suffers is the time available for new research and for keeping abreast of new developments in historiography. This has serious implications for the future, since to be truly useful, an historian must never stop learning. At this point, the lack of opportunity is not a problem, but it is a concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward MacDonald,
Curator of History

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Publishing

On all fronts, 1989-90 was a busy and productive year for the Museum & Heritage Foundation. Publishing was no exception.

Between April 1, 1989 and March 31, 1990, four books (two of them hard-cover) were released, two issues of *The Island Magazine* were produced, the Bibliographic Index to *The Island Magazine* was revamped and updated, four issues of the Newsletter were written and distributed, and (the late) Irene Roger's popular booklet *Walks in Charlottetown* was abridged and re-printed in time for the tourist trade last summer.

Sales of Meacham's 1880 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Prince Edward Island*, re-printed last May, have been steady despite the $80 price tag such a specialty book carries. Over one-third of the run has already been sold through the Bookstore in Beaconsfield and retail outlets. In September, *Getting the Lights*, the late A. Kenneth Bell's recollections of the coming of electricity to Prince Edward Island, was published as a small soft-cover book. It is selling reasonably well.

Then, in October, the long-awaited *History of St. Dunstan's University, 1855-1956*, by the Museum's own Edward MacDonald, was launched with due fanfare at the University of Prince Edward Island. The book has received good reviews, and is being sought out by readers despite some suggestions from the book stores that the selling price of $50 is slowing sales. The St. Dunstan's University Board of Governors,

co-publisher of the 400-page hard-cover volume, underwrote all costs.

At the end of February, *A Thousand Young Men*, the history of the colonial volunteer militia on Prince Edward Island between 1775 and 1874, was launched as a book and a major exhibition. With text and illustration by David Webber, the handsome 200-page soft-cover book is proving popular and readable, marking up sales (@$29.95) of 125 within the first week. For details of the colourful exhibition at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery, which was on display until April 8, see Boyde Beck's report.

Issue 25 of *The Island Magazine* was published last June, the first to be distributed under an agreement with H.H. Marshall Limited, and realized 35% additional revenue despite the higher discount paid to the distribution company. Sales of Issue 26, published last November and on the stands now, will be harder to forecast since it carries a cost hike of $1 per magazine. The increase, the first in eight years, was recommended to the Board by the Publishing Committee to help offset rising costs. It takes the per-issue cost to $4.50 (or $8 by subscription). Final sales figures on #26 will not be available from H.H. Marshall until three months after the next issue, #27, reaches the stands in June. (See also Ed MacDonald's report as the magazine's editor.)

The Bibliographic Index to *The Island Magazine* was updated to the end of Issue 25 last fall by Editor Ed MacDonald, emerging typeset with a sporty black-and-white cover thanks to the kind support of the Queens Printer. The modest $1 charge imposed on the revised edition defrays mailing costs at least.

Sales of books and magazines in the Bookstore and through retail outlets surpassed those of the year before, by 45%, rising to $58,000. This reflects increased publishing activity and stronger promotion of our materials, both reflecting the advantages of having the position of Supervisor of Publications filled after a hiatus in 1988-89.

The *Newsletter* came out as promised in quarterly installments. Thanks to the computer, production has been streamlined as much as is "humanly" possible, but it still takes its toll in time. Offsetting that consideration is its undeniable usefulness as a tool to keep members informed of the Museum's diverse activities — and the staff regularly reviewing and updating their own diverse activities.

The Publishing Committee has been without a chairman since Eldon Jamieson's term on the Board expired last June. New committee members have since been appointed by the Board (Robert Tuck and Clinton Morrison joining staff members Mary Burnett, Ed MacDonald, David Webber and myself), but the chair is still vacant. When the committee meets next it will have to grapple with establishing publishing priorities in the face of the overall deficit position held by the Museum at the end of this 1989-90 fiscal year. The Board itself will have to decide if revenue from publishing should remain within the division to finance further ventures — which is not the case now — and conversely, whether publishing ventures should be accepted, rejected or terminated on the basis of financial viability alone. Is publishing to remain a programme within the institution or be set on a business course? What publishing policy would best serve the interests of the Museum and its mandate to preserve the Island's heritage? Difficult questions.

Publicity

Promotion is a natural offshoot of many of the activities of the publishing division as well as other departments and branches within the Museum. Unfortunately, on the inadequate budget allotted to the division, great strides are not possible and nor is any kind of support for the sites, which are left struggling along on their own inadequate resources.

Without funds, much of what has to be done over the course of a year becomes labour-intensive and includes such tasks as extensive pre-production preparations for the quarterly Newsletter and of *The Island Magazine*, the latter in concert with editor Ed MacDonald. Publicity for events such as Heritage Day (and Week) activities, book launches and annual awards presentations depend on what the media picks up from press releases and small announcement ads. Any major outlay consistent with developing a marketing and advertising plan through professional channels is just not possible. During this fiscal year, the "major" commitment made was to the Department of Tourism ($1000) to pay for artwork and colour separations for a full-page ad in the 1990 *Visitors Guide*. Had the page not been offered to us free by the department, the Museum system and its heritage message would not have been visible in colour beyond the boundaries of the province.

Media coverage within the province has been adequate and fair, however, with the militia exhibit receiving the most attention this year. The next project to involve the entire staff in planning and production is the Irish exhibition to open in the summer, funded by the provincial departments of Tourism & Parks and Community & Cultural Affairs. The promotion component (including the official opening) will heat up during June and July.

Desperately needed for some time have been membership and subscription brochures to be used as response pieces for enquiries, neither of which have been updated, nor even available, for years. Both are at the printer's now, the former after receiving funding approval from the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs for bilingual production, the latter held back for a money transfusion in the new fiscal year. . .

Other activities carried out over the course of the year included organizing and promoting two book launches (and one militia exhibit), the annual meeting and awards banquet, and the Heritage Week activities, including the proclamation ceremony and presentation of the second annual Award for Meritorious Achievement (to Dr. David Weale). Organization of Heritage Day was vastly simplified by Nonie Fraser's support at the Eptek end where the festivities were held this year. There is also my regular Artifact of the Month column, which appears in *The Guardian* newspaper and for which I receive the help of the curators in the selection and research of materials.

Despite the gloom about finances that keeps leaking through the words of this report, it has been a productive and satisfying year, with steady infusions of support from the rest of the staff. So much of what we do is interdependent — my thanks to my co-workers for making that mutual dependency so agreeable, to Executive Director David Webber for providing the atmosphere in which that is possible, and to Ed MacDonald, for being a gentleman about sharing the computer and other onerous tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kearney,
Supervisor of Publications & Publicity

GOVERNMENT HOUSE COMMITTEE

Government House Committee has had an interesting and busy year, and continues to work toward the long-term plan to restore and maintain the historic interest of this house and grounds.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to pay respect to the late Irene Rogers, who was one of the founding members of Government House Committee in 1970. Irene, a most valued member, worked tirelessly on behalf of the Committee, and as a noted historian brought considerable knowledge, experience and support to it. We are extremely grateful to have had Irene with us during those 19 years. She will be missed.

Exterior Work

Work on the exterior of Government House continues. A series of studies is being conducted on how to restore the verandahs, porticos, exterior walls, windows and surface finishes to a state approximating that in the early years of the house, circa 1840. The committee estimates that these studies will take several years to complete.

Garden Committee

This committee continues to work very hard under the chairmanship of Dr. R.G. Lea. Trude Oliver is serving still as a member of both the House and Garden Commitees, and acts as liaison with the Garden Committee. Other members of the committee are Edith Neily and Freman Newson.

The Garden Committee reports that its major concern over the past year has been with the state of the woods and trees throughout the grounds. A detailed examination of both the trees and the underbrush revealed many diseased and injured trees, as well as a great number of "weed trees" such as poplar and wild cherry. At the same time, many desirable saplings such as oak, maple, ash, beech and birch were discovered, which can be used as replacement trees in the woods.

Undesirable species are being removed and new areas prepared for transplanting saplings and seedlings. This work will be carried out during the spring of 1990.

Plans are being made to introduce new trees to the east and southeast areas of the grounds. Pruning of the shrubs will continue in this area, with eight to ten trees planted this year.

A review of the annual flower planting will be undertaken, and new ideas are expected to emerge. The programme to rebuild the perennial beds in the formal garden will continue. The rose garden remains a favourite of visitors to the gardens.

Once again, we are grateful to the Their Honours the MacPhails for making the gardens available and open to the public on Friday evenings throughout July and August, and to the Garden Committee who are on hand to greet visitors and answer questions. This successful programme has been in place for seven years, and is most appreciated by visitors.

Work on the Interior

The main emphasis over the past several months has been on refurbishment of the central east bedroom, located on the second floor of the house. Investigative work is being carried out to determine where the original walls were located, whether there was a fireplace, and where the original door was. The mouldings and mantel, etc. are all being examined. As well, a new carpet is being considered for this room. We look forward to the completion of the bedroom over the next several months.

We continue to look for new hardware for the windows and various pieces of Royal Diamond crystal that can be added to the existing glassware.

We are pleased to have the services of Trude Oliver, Edith Neily, Arlene Rice and Eileen Paton, who continue to gather and dry the flowers for the beautiful arrangements placed around the house. Thank you.

Acquisitions

Over the past year, Government House Committee acquired a table-desk stamped "Government House," circa 1840, a most pleasing acquisition. As well, a painting by Island artist Martha Irving was purchased that depicts a young woman mending a fishnet in the 19th-century manner. Two brass and wood curtain rods with rings, and six pieces of Royal Crown Derby in the Imari pattern, were also purchased. We were pleased to have the recently published book, *Ample Mansions* by Dr. Robert H. Hubbard, donated to Government House, which is depicted in it.

Back from Restoration

We are happy to report that two beautifully restored paintings have been returned to us from the Fine Art Laboratory in Sackville, N.B. One is of Sir Frederick Haldimand, a former Governor of Quebec, and the other is of Judge John Barrow.

I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Government House Committee for their interest and hard work — Trude Oliver, Eddie Rice, Catherine Hennessey, Elinor Vass, Esther Cox, Mark Holton, Eric Arsenault, Dr. C.W.J. Eliot, and Their Honours Lloyd G. and Mrs. MacPhail particularly, who have been extremely supportive over the past five years — and to our faithful secretary Rosemary Trainor, who spends a great deal of time working on the Committee's behalf.

I am sorry that we had to accept the resignation this year of Harry Norton and Ella Willis, both devoted and hard-working members. We will miss them. We are pleased to welcome as new members, effective January 1990, Dr. C.W.J. Eliot, Catherine Hennessey and Mark Holton. They bring considerable experience and expertise to the Committee, and we look forward to working with them.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of Government House Committee, and I look forward to the 1990s.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy MacDonald,
Chairman, Government House Committee